

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00382 091649Z

47

ACTION NEA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-01 PA-01 /004 W

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P R 091559Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2257

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

UNCLAS BEIRUT 382

USIA FOR IOP/M, IBS, IPS, INA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, ENGR, XF, US, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SECRETARY ON OIL; MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS

1. SUMMARY. BEIRUT PRESS, ESPECIALLY LEFTIST PAPERS, CONTINUES CAMPAIGN AGAINST SECRETARY' S STATEMENTS ON OIL TO "BUSINESS WEEK". LEFTIST PAPERS ALSO DEVOTE LIMITED BUT CRITICAL COMMENTS TO U.S. PEACE EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.

2. LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN AL-ANWAR'S COLUMNIST ELIAS BADAWI, COMMENTING ON SECRETARY'S OIL STATEMENTS, WRITES: "WHAT DOES KISSINGER WANT? DOES HE SEEK BY THESE MANEUVERS TO TRANSFORM MIDEAST CRISIS...INTO WIDER INTERNATIONAL CRISIS ... OR DOES HE WANT TO EXPLOIT ENERGY CRISIS ... TO IMPOSE AMERICAN'S ECONOMIC DOMINATION ON CONSUMING AND PRODUCING STATES ALIKE...? YES, WHAT DOES KISSINGER WANT? EVERYONE HAS RIGHT TO ASK THIS QUESTION, PARTICULARLY IN THIS REGION, WHERE MANY PEOPLE HAVE PLACED THEIR CONFIDENCE IN HIM AND HIS ABILITIES."

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3. LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO AL-MUHARRIR, COMMENTING ON SAME

SUBJECT, WRITES: "ALTHOUGH WE DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT U.S. WILL IMPLEMENT ITS THREATS BECAUSE OF MAJOR RISKS THAT COULD DEVELOP AND LEAD TO OUTBREAK OF NEW WORLD WAR, WE DO, IN REVIEWING AMERICAN BEHAVIOR IN S.E. ASIA, LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, EUROPE, CARIBBEAN, AND OUR OWN REGION, FIND THAT AMERICAN IMPERIALISM... ALWAYS PLACES ITS INTERESTS FIRST, EVEN WHEN THIS BEHAVIOR COULD LEAD TO DESTRUCTION OF OTHERS' INTERESTS OR OF WHOLE WORLD.... NO MATTER WHAT THESE THREATS INTEND -- BE IT TO PRESSURE ARAB STATES AND PREVENT IMPOSITION OF NEW OIL EMBARGO IF FIFTH WAR BREAKS OUT OR TO PERSUADE THEM TO BACK OFF FROM IMPLEMENTING OPEC RESOLUTIONS...-- THESE THREATS REMAIN PART OF AMERICAN IMPERIALIST CONDUCT TOWARD OTHER WORLD POWERS WHICH ARE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH AMERICAN POLICY OR ARE TRYING TO REVOLT AGAINST IT."

4. PRO-SOVIET ASH-SHA'B, COMMENTING ON SAME SUBJECT, WRITES: "IT IS NOT OUR BUSINESS TO KNOW WHAT ENEMY SEEKS FROM ITS ARROGANT STATEMENT. BUT IT IS OUR RIGHT TO ASK VIEWS OF ALL ARAB OIL STATES, BEGINNING WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER GULF STATES.... IF AMERICA THINKS THAT PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE'S THREAT TO BLOW UP OIL WELLS IS MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, IT IS GREATLY MISTAKEN. WHEN OIL BECOMES INSTRUMENT FOR SUBJUGATING PEOPLE, AND THEIR RULERS DO NOT ACT, THERE IS NOTHING EASIER THAN PUTTING THINGS INTO HANDS OF POPULAR LEADERSHIPS.... PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE'S STATEMENT SHOULD BE SIGNED BY ALL ARAB OIL STATES AND SENT TO WASHINGTON."

5. PRO-SYRIAN ASH-SHARQ, COMMENTING ON SAME SUBJECT, WRITES: "OIL IS MAIN PREOCCUPATION OF KISSINGER, WHO FOR SOME TIME HAD ADOPTED KID GLOVE DIPLOMACY IN HIS DEALINGS WITH ARABS. WHEN HE ACHIEVED HIS OTHER OBJECTIVES, HE RESORTED QUICKLY TO DIPLOMACY OF BIG STICK, WHICH HE SHAKES THREATENINGLY, AND STARTED TO THREATEN OVER AND OVER THAT AMERICA INTENDS TO INVADE ARAB OIL STATES AND OCCUPY THEM BY FORCE OF ARMS."

6. PRO-LIBYAN AS-SAFIR, COMMENTING ON CURRENT PEACE EFFORTS IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL, CRITICIZES EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT FOR TRYING "TO APPEASE U.S. AT ANY PRICE BY ISSUING EXTREMELY FRIENDLY PUBLIC STATEMENTS, DEMONSTRATING FULL CONFIDENCE IN FORD AND KISSINGER, CREATING ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO POSTPONEMENT OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT (EVEN AT COST OF GIVING UP REARMAMENT AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT), UNCLASSIFIED

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AND ACCORDING WARM RECEPTION TO SHAH OF IRAN, NUMBER ONE ALLY OF U.S. IN MIDEAST.... HIGHLY PLACED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN WASHINGTON SAY EGYPT'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT ISRAEL'S OFFER OF WITHDRAWAL IN RETURN FOR POLITICAL CONCESSIONS IS WHAT STALLED KISSINGER MISSION. WASHINGTON WILL THUS TRY AGAIN WITH EGYPT AND ASK IT TO DEFINE ITS POLITICAL CONCESSIONS AS INEVITABLE CONDITION FOR REVIVAL OF KISSINGER MISSION. IT IS AS IF WASHINGTON WANTS TO SAY TO EGYPT THAT ALL ATTEMPTS AT REAPPROCHEMENT WILL BE OF

NO AVAIL UNLESS ISRAEL IS SATISFIED. INSTEAD OF LEADING TO PRESSURE
AGAINST ISRAEL, POLICY OF APPEASING U.S. IS UNFORTUNATELY LEADING
TO PRESSURE AGAINST EGYPT IN FAVOR OF ISRAEL."
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT00382
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750009-0175
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750167/aaaacgrk.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAR 2003 by daviscw>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: SECRETARY ON OIL; MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, ENRG, XF, US, LE, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: USIA STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006